



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

PROJECTS, ISSUES AND PROGRAMS IN SHANNON, CARTER AND RIPLEY COUNTIES

Current Conversations

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

✓ CONSERVATION BUFFERS
BENEFIT WILDLIFE

✓ ANGELINE TRAIL PROJECT

✓ DOVES IN THE OZARKS

✓ TELECHECK DEER &
TURKEY

✓ KIDS NEED NATURE

✓ LOCAL RIVER LOVERS
CLEAN UP JACKS FORK

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Brad McKee Private Lands Conservationsist

When the Private Land Services Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation was created five years ago, a mission statement was developed stating "To help Missouri landowners achieve their land use objectives in ways that enhance the conservation of Missouri's natural resources." This however was not the first effort by MDC to offer assistance to Missouri's private landowners.

In previous years Wildlife Division held within itself staff known as Field Service Agents who provided on the ground technical assistance to interested landowners. Likewise, Forestry and Fisheries divisions have provided continuous service in the form of forest management or stream, lake, and pond assistance. Providing technical assistance to Missouri landowners has always been a priority for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Staff from most divisions still handle private landowner requests but juggle these duties with public land as well. The Private Land Services Division has the unique opportunity to focus on providing assistance solely to private landowners. The reason for this emphasis is quite simple: 93 percent of Missouri is privately owned. The success of conservation efforts in Missouri rest with the private landowners who are stewards of the land.

Private Land Conservationist are scattered around the state, mostly housed in USDA Service Centers to provide more immediate contact with landowners. Most are located in small area towns such as Alton, Doniphan, and Eminence. To further the service available to local landowners, the department recently reallocated vacancies to hire an additional 10 Private Land Conservationist across the state.



Don Foerster (above), Private Lands Conservationist, covers Carter and Ripley Counties.

Locally, the Ozark Region received two new employees. Don Foerster is assigned to Carter and Ripley Counties and works out of the Doniphan USDA Office (573/996-3619). Mike Gaskins is assigned to Shannon and Dent Counties and is housed out of the Eminence USDA Office (573/226-3241).

Don Foerster has an Agriculture Education degree from Arkansas State University. Mike recently worked for Department of Natural Resources as a Soil Scientist at Poplar Bluff. He also worked for the Carter County Soil and Water District as a District Technician, and he taught building trades at Van Buren R1 High School.



Mike Gaskins (above), Private Lands Conservationist, covers Shannon and Dent Counties.

Mike Gaskins has a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Prior to joining the Missouri Department of Conservation, he worked as a self-employed part-time consulting forester, and as a part-time graduate research assistant for Southern Illinois University.

Private Lands

CONSERVATION BUFFERS: BOOM TO FISH AND WILDLIFE



Rivers like the lower Current may require a buffer of 50 to 100 feet, while smaller tributaries may only need 25 to 50 feet.



As a rule, more plant diversity means more wildlife diversity.

Brad McKee Private Lands Conservationist

Conservation buffers are strips of grass, trees, shrubs, or a combination of them. As the name implies, a buffer provides a cushion, or buffer, between intensive farming operations and other lands or waterways.

There are a number of practices that are called buffers. Most common are grass filter strips or grass, shrub and tree riparian plantings along a stream. Contour grass strips in a crop field, farmstead and field windbreaks, and grass field borders are also considered buffers.

A primary reason many landowners establish buffers is to improve water quality. The grass or other vegetation slows runoff waters, allowing sediment and farm chemicals to settle out into the buffer rather than shoot full speed into streams, lakes or reservoirs.

Because the buffer is between the water body and the farm field, farming operations are also kept at arms length from the water body, meaning chemical and other field applications take place away from the stream.

Food and cover. The new vegetation established in a buffer is an opportunity to provide new sources of food and cover for wildlife. Native plants, forbs and legumes provide the foods many wildlife species want. The recommendations also consider the winter cover that can be provided. As a rule, more plant diversity means more wildlife diversity.

Width is critical. In general, the larger the stream, the wider the buffer strip. Rivers like the lower Current may require a buffer of 50 to 100 feet, while smaller tributaries may only need 25 to 50 feet. Connecting buffers between the main channel and tributaries is also beneficial to wildlife who may move through these vegetated zones.

Plant diversity. As a rule, more plant diversity means more wildlife diversity. Researchers from Iowa State University found five times as many species of birds in a riparian buffer of grasses, shrubs and trees as had existed in a non-buffered pasture before buffer establishment. USDA/NRCS offers technical and financial help in establishing conservation buffers.

For more information, contact your Private Land Conservationist listed on the back of this publication or your local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Office at Doniphan (573) 996-7116 or Eminence (573) 226-3241. Also, information can be accessed on the internet at www.nrcs.usda.gov or www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov.



Lack of a stream buffer of trees can lead to bank erosion and deposition of gravel in hay fields.



Wooded stream buffers provide many benefits to fish and wildlife while protect

"USDA/NRCS offers technical and financial help in establishing conservation buffers."

Forestry

ANGELINE CONSERVATION AREA TRAIL PROJECT



Terry Thompson Resource Forester

Conservation Areas in the Ozark Region provide many recreational opportunities. As land managers, we manage for various user groups. Recreational use has increased over the years, with the types of use greatly varied among groups. This variety presents a challenge to managers: to provide recreational opportunities while also managing for long term sustainability of our natural resources. When an outdoor activity becomes popular with a large number of users, it has an impact on the natural resources of a forest. The impact of heavy recreational use can be soil erosion, causing sediment to move into small upland waterways. As waterways merge, the amount of sediment load increases as water moves farther downstream.

On Angeline Conservation Area, land managers are facing this challenge in Lick Log and Copper Mine Hollows. Horseback riding has become very popular in and around the town of Eminence. The popularity of this area has created some problems, impacting the natural resources of the forest. A team of Conservation Department personnel with a variety of expertise is currently involved in implementing a trail restoration and improvement plan. This plan will address the matter associated with heavy recreational use, and provide MDC with an opportunity to inform area users through use of interpretive signs showing forest management techniques, habitat work and woodland/glade restoration.

The trail plan involves a six step approach of implementation over a period of two years. Work on the trail system started in April of 2005 and work on main interior trails will be completed in December of 2007. Other improvements will follow as budget dollars are available. The plan will complement the original trail work on Lick Log Hollow Nature Trail by having a connecting foot trail constructed from the overlook north of town. This provides opportunity

for those who prefer to hike into the area. The scenic overlook will be improved to showcase the picturesque landscape and to better accommodate area visitors.

Management activities such as timber harvest will continue during construction; some foot trails will provide access for timber harvest while others will be used to access and maintain the trail system. All trails will have a chat surface and best management practices in place to manage water runoff, thus reducing the amount of sediment in the upper waterways. Work has begun on a day use trailhead parking area off county road 205 that will accommodate trucks with trailers. The parking area will have a restroom facility, picnic tables and interpretive signage for regulations and use of the area. Other improvements along the trail system will include hitching posts, watering facilities and short, walk-in only segments of trail to sensitive points of interest.

These developments will help protect the sensitive upland streams and habitat of the area while providing people with an opportunity to pursue outdoor recreation in a forested environment. If you have comments or questions about this project or any MDC project please call the Eminence office.



"Angeline Conservation Area may be the most heavily used horse riding area in the state."



"Improperly designed horse trails can lead to soil erosion."



"All trails will have a chat surface and best management practices in place to manage water runoff, thus reducing the amount of sediment in the upper waterways."

Wildlife

DOVE HUNTING IN THE OZARKS


Kim Houf
Wildlife Biologist

Doves are found in every county in Missouri. The mourning dove is one of the most abundant birds in the United States and continues to gain status as a songbird. It is also considered by many sportsmen to be one of the most challenging game birds to hunt.



"Banding data shows that over 73 percent of the doves harvested in Missouri were produced in the state."

Because mourning doves cross state lines and international boundaries, they are classified as a Federal Migratory Species. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually sets regulations as guidelines for individual states when determining suitable dove management strategies. The states have the flexibility to determine their own seasons but must follow the federal daily limits set by the USFWS. States are also allowed the flexibility to create more restrictive regulations than the USFWS but they cannot be more liberal.

Missouri is traditionally conservative when managing doves. Dove season typically begins September 1 and ends November 9. This 70 day season allows hunters to take 12 doves daily and possess 24. Shooting hours begin one half hour before sunrise and end at sunset. Banding data shows that over 73 percent of the doves harvested in Missouri were produced in the state. In the past, Missouri has ranked second highest in number of doves harvested per unit land area. One possible reason is that many conservation areas across the state are actively managing for mourning doves.



"Dove fields include wheat stubble or a mixture of millet, grain sorghum, sunflowers, and loredo haybeans."

The work team located out of Peck Ranch Conservation Area is responsible for almost 100 acres of critical open land in Shannon, Carter and Ripley Counties. Many of these open areas have been specifically managed to provide more hunting opportunity for dove hunters within the Ozark Region. Dove fields include wheat stubble or a mixture of millet, grain sorghum, sunflowers, and loredo haybeans.

If you are an avid dove hunter or a newcomer to the sport, here are few recommended public hunting areas.

If you live in or near Shannon County consider taking a drive to the Sunklands Burr Oak Basin Natural Area. This area currently has 12 acres of dove fields located about 10 miles

northeast of Summersville on the Sunklands Conservation Area. Other areas in Shannon County include Alley Springs Conservation Area located approximately 5 miles west of Eminence on Hwy 106 and Blue Springs Conservation Area located 10 miles east of Eminence on Hwy 106. Each area currently has approximately 10 acres of dove fields.

Peck Ranch Conservation Area, located in Carter County, provides 12 acres of dove hunting fields outside of the refuge area. These public hunting areas are located along Mill Creek and Vermillion Hollow.

For those of you hunting in Ripley County, Mudpuppy and Fourche Creek Conservation Areas provide ample opportunities for dove hunting. Mudpuppy CA, which is located approximately 5 miles North off Hwy 160 on BB has 12 acres of dove hunting habitat. Fourche Creek CA which is located in the southwestern portion of the county off P Hwy offers approximately 10 acres of dove fields.

When planning your fall hunt this year here are a few things to keep in mind to make your hunting expedition a success:

- * Purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting permit and the prescribed hunting permit
- * Empty shot shells are litter, so don't forget to pick up your spent shot shells
- * Above all else, remember safety!

To find out the latest dove regulations concerning season dates, limits and other regulations look for the Migratory Bird Digest this fall at any permit vendor. If you would like more information on any one of the above mentioned dove management areas please feel free to call (573) 323-4249. For more information on other conservation areas managing for mourning doves go to <http://www.conservation.state.mo.us>.

Charcoal Dove Recipe

12 dove breasts

Marinade: 3/4 cup lemon juice, 3/4 cup soy sauce, 3/4 cup vegetable oil, 1 tsp. salt, 1 onion chopped, 2 cloves garlic chopped, 1 T. Worcestershire sauce.

Mix marinade ingredients together. Place dove breasts in large pan; add marinade. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove doves. Place on grill. Baste with marinade. Cook until done. Serves 4.

Protection

NEW 2005 TELECHECK RULE IS IN PLACE



Darren Killian Conservation Agent

Summertime is drawing to an end and fall is rapidly approaching, which brings to mind fall

deer and turkey hunting. Each year in Missouri thousands of outdoorsmen and women head to the woods in an attempt to bag a trophy. This fall, however, there is one significant change in what you do if you harvest a deer or turkey. This change has to do with the implementation of Telecheck.

Telecheck is a new system the Conservation Department has instituted that enables hunters to check in their deer or turkey via telephone or internet. Some landowners and a few other hunters may have already used Telecheck during the past few seasons or in another state. Beginning with the 2005, fall deer and turkey seasons, use of the new Telecheck system will be required of all hunters that wish to check in a deer or turkey. Telecheck eliminates the requirement that hunters physically present harvested animals at official check stations for inspection and check stations will no longer be operated.

To use the new Telecheck system hunters simply call 1-800-314-6828 or go to the Conservation Department website at www.missouriconservation.org and follow the step by step instructions for checking game. Each animal checked will be given an eight digit confirmation number that verifies the hunter has legally checked it in. The hunter then must write the confirmation number on the main portion of the proper permit and attach it to the game. This must be done by 10 P.M. on the day the game was harvested.

Telecheck was established to provide hunters with a convenient way to register their harvest. Telecheck should allow hunters to spend more time afield and to have a more relaxed hunt, because they can access the system from any telephone or internet location. Hunter surveys show 60% support of Telecheck. This new automated system also allows more efficient collection of the same biological data that was previously gathered through check stations and greatly reduces the amount of time conservation agents previously had to spend in their administration.

As far as increasing the likelihood of poaching, Conservation Department officials do not believe Telecheck will lead to more poaching. As mentioned above, agents will have more time available to be in the field for enforcement efforts and sneaking game out of the woods will be no easier under the new system than it was before. The immediate tagging requirement remains in effect and a deer or turkey permit with the tag removed is invalid. Law abiding hunters remain our best defense against poaching. If you are aware of someone poaching, or if you witness suspicious activities, you should call your local Conservation Agent or you may call the Operation Game Thief Hotline at 1-800-392-1111.

For more information regarding the new Telecheck system or Fall deer and turkey seasons you can go to the Conservation Department website or pick up a 2005 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet at a permit vendor.

"Telecheck was established to provide hunters with a convenient way to register their harvest."

"To use the new Telecheck system hunters simply call 1-800-314-6828 or go to the Conservation Department website at www.missouriconservation.org"

HUNTER N FISHER 2901 W TRUMAN JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101		Transportation Tag for Deer/Turkey Attach to Deer/Turkey IMMEDIATELY Permit # 012345678		05	Write confirmation # here
Missouri Conservation Department 2005 Permit		05	1123456789065000		
CONSV #123456789 HUNTER N FISHER 2901 W TRUMAN JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101		TeleCheck ID R123 456 782		Permit # 012345678 Term ID: 1234567 Vendor: 030-114 03/22/2005 10:30	
DOB: 03-02-1958 Hunt Ed #123456 Height: 6' 0" Weight: 200 Hair: BROWN Eyes: BLUE Gender: M		055-Resident Spring Turkey		\$17.00	
I agree to comply with the Wildlife Code, to present this permit upon request to an officer authorized to enforce wildlife rules, and to allow such officer to inspect wildlife in possession to determine compliance with rules.					
Signature _____					



Education

WHY KIDS NEED NATURE



"...a bridge can be built to help connect today's young children with their environment."



"Exposure to nature has been shown to reduce stress and increase attention span."

Jennifer Ferris
Conservation Education Consultant

Whether you grew up in the country or the big city, chances are you spent a lot of time happily playing outdoors, exploring and getting dirty. Maybe you climbed trees in the neighborhood, helped grow a veggie patch, or spent summer nights catching fireflies. Unfortunately, many of today's young children are missing out on these direct experiences with their natural world, and according to experts, this is causing ill effects in both their minds and bodies. In rural, urban, and suburban settings, over-packed schedules, fear of the outdoors and the lure of computers and televisions steer children into spending more time indoors. Luckily, when adults purposefully and enthusiastically set out to engage children in nature, a bridge can be built to help connect today's young children with their environment.

When you step outside into nature all of your senses are activated. You are seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, even tasting. Alas, the opposite is also true-when you are not immersed in your natural world, your senses are dulled and lose their sharpness. Research shows that meaningful exposure to nature can be very therapeutic for families, helping with depression, obesity, and attention-deficit disorder. Exposure to nature has been shown to reduce stress and increase attention span. Getting outdoors can refresh and rejuvenate a child's brain, helping them to focus and pay attention when in a more structured setting.

It doesn't take a great deal of planning to begin the process of exposing children to what's

outside in their surroundings. This can mean visiting a local park, a farm, a patch of forest, or their own backyard. It's not necessarily about the kind of nature, it's about letting children have the opportunity and freedom to explore their environment. These experiences help children develop important skills they can use throughout their lives, such as asking meaningful questions, making careful observations, finding ways to test their ideas, and sharing their thoughts and observations with others.

What can adults do to help foster a lifetime of learning and caring for nature in our children? First and foremost, lead by example. Be enthusiastic about nature yourself and model respect for the environment. Be sure to get down on your child's level and see what they see and show interest and excitement in what interests them. Listen to your child and let them express their thoughts without jumping in with answers or ideas and keep your schedule flexible enough to allow time for creativity and curiosity. Autumn is a great time of year for taking a walk through your neighborhood and observing the seasonal changes and beautiful leaves or you could spend some time watching the squirrels busily gathering nuts to help them survive the winter. Maybe you could be lucky enough to take a trip to one of our wetland areas to view birds that may be migrating through the area or you may just choose to lay on your back in the shade and watch the clouds. Whatever activity you choose, enjoy the time together and be assured that you are making a fun, exciting, and healthful choice for your family.

Fisheries

STREAM TEAM CLEANS UP JACKS FORK



"...this is a group of dedicated, excited individuals who care about their river."

Dave Mayers
Fisheries Management Biologist

In my opinion, the biggest success story where volunteers had a large positive impact on our Ozark rivers has to be the annual Jack Fork River cleanup by Stream Team 713. My wife and I have participated in past cleanups and I can honestly say this is a group of dedicated and excited individuals who care about their river. But rather than have me express their dedication, I have graciously been granted permission to reprint Toña McKinney's article. Enjoy, and if it interests you, get involved!

Stream Teams do make a difference!
By Toña McKinney

For the past seven years, Stream Team 713 and the Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association (STSTA) have been hosting the "Jacks Fork River Cleanup and Canoe Give-away" on the first Saturday in June. Volunteers are asked to adopt one of seven sections of the 44 miles of river to float and clean for the day. Afterwards, they are rewarded for their hard work with a Bar-B-Q, music and a drawing for some fine gifts, including two new canoes.

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The first cleanup in 1999 saw 55 participants, but these hard working volunteers pulled almost 10 tons of trash, 60 tires and a number of broken appliances from the Jacks Fork. This year, in comparison, 150 volunteers took part in the cleanup, and in spite of their diligent efforts, removed only 38 bags of trash and 10 tires. For the second year, there were no appliances to be found in the river.

Why the difference? Granted, the opportunity to go home with a new canoe is exciting, but according to Pat Haviland, the cleanup chairperson for SRSTA, the big difference is "awareness". "Over the years", said Haviland, "people have become aware of our efforts to keep the Jacks Fork clean, and they have responded. It isn't unusual for us to meet floaters on the river who proudly show us how much trash THEY have collected!" This awareness, she feels, is directly attributed to the example that the stream teams have shown.

The cleanup has grown from its humble beginnings seven years ago, into an area event that draws volunteers, not only from the local communities, but from across Missouri and surrounding states. Participants this year came from Arkansas, Kansas, Colorado, Mississippi and Florida. One family from South-

Central Kansas discovered the cleanup three years ago, and has since planned their summer vacation to include a day on the Jacks Fork River.

Volunteers range in age from youngsters of five and six, floating with their parents, to senior citizens interested in preserving the Jacks Fork for their children and grandchildren. The oldest participant this year was a seventy-five year young great-grandmother who has recently become "a Stream Teamer".

What does it take to organize a river cleanup? Haviland and her committee start in January, contacting sponsors. Area businesses have donated gifts, coupons, food and cash to help promote and finance the event. According to Haviland, "It takes a lot of work, but seeing the response from the community makes it all worth while. This year there were over 50 sponsors from five communities whose generosity helped make our event a success."

The Scenic Rivers Stream Team Association was founded in 1994 as a 501-c3 nonprofit group of Stream Teams in South-central Missouri. Their mission is to protect and preserve the water quality in South-central Missouri through stewardship, education and advocacy. For more information on SRSTA and the Stream Team program visit: www.srsta.com or www.mostreamteam.org

"...volunteers pulled almost 10 tons of trash, 60 tires and a number of broken appliances from the Jacks Fork."



Outdoor Calendar

Hunting

	Opens	Closes
Coyote	5/9/05	3/31/06
Deer Archery	9/15/05	11/11/05
	11/23/05	1/15/06
Youth	10/29/05	10/30/05
November	11/12/05	11/22/05
Muzzleloader	11/25/05	12/04/05
Antlerless	12/10/05	12/18/05
Dove	9/1/05	11/9/05
Furbearers	11/15/05	2/15/06
Groundhog	5/9/05	12/15/05
Rabbits	10/1/05	2/15/06
Ruffed Grouse	10/15/05	1/15/06
Squirrel	5/28/05	2/15/06
Teal (sunrise to sunset)	9/10/05	9/18/05
Turkey, archery	9/15/05	11/11/05
	11/23/05	1/15/06
Turkey, fall firearms	10/1/05	10/31/05
Woodcock	10/15/05	11/28/05

Fishing

	Opens	Closes
Black Bass (impoundments)	Open All Year	----
Black Bass (streams, Current, Jacks Fork and their tributaries)	5/28/05	2/28/06
Trout Management Areas	Open All Year	----
Trout Parks	3/1/05	10/31/05
Bullfrog	Sunset	Midnight
	6/30/05	10/31/05

Resident Hunting Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19
 Small Game --- \$10
 Fall Firearms Turkey ---\$13
 Youth Deer and Turkey ---\$17
 Archery Hunting ---\$19
 Firearms Any Deer ---\$17
 Firearms First Bonus Deer --- \$7
 Firearms Second Bonus Deer --- \$7
 Trapping --- \$10

Resident Fishing Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19
 Fishing --- \$12
 Trout --- \$7



We are on the web. To view this newsletter go to www.mdc.mo.gov and click on the Ozark portion of the map located at bottom of web page.



We're on the Web!
WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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Jefferson City, MO
65109
Phone: 573/751-4115

MDC Mission

- ✓ To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state,
- ✓ To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities,
- ✓ To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

Mission of This Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to share current information about conservation projects, issues, and programs and to develop working relationships with the citizens of Shannon, Carter, and Ripley Counties.

Share Your Thoughts

If there are any subjects you would like to see in the *Conservation Currents* please contact Scott Stephens or if you have any questions pertaining to the Wildlife Code please contact the Conservation Agent assigned to your county. County assignments and phone numbers are listed below.

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service Phone: 1-800-392-1111

CONTACT OFFICES AND NAMES

If you have a question about any of the following topics, here are your contact professionals:

Shannon Co. Field Office

573/226-3616



Carter Co. Field Office

573/323-8515



Ripley Co. Field Office

573/996-2557



Forestry

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Outdoor Skills

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